

**WHAT WE CLAIM IS:**

1. A fast fit assembly adapted to dock a necked container characterised in that the assembly includes.

5 a resilient collar which includes an array of elements,  
each said element with a form to be moved outwardly radially against a bias as a container is being axially docked until each moves inwardly radially with the bias to capture (at least in part) a neck flange or the equivalent of the container (hereafter "head") by its underface, each said element being integral with and/or supported by linking regions, there 10 being in the collar sufficient deformability to allow both the docking movement as aforesaid and to allow a docked container to be moved free from the elements.

2. A fast fit assembly as claimed in claim 1 wherein the resilient collar is moulded and is of a kind having elements and/or a ring form and/or a ring form/element inter-relationship.

3. A fast fit assembly as claimed in claim 1 to 2 wherein the collar has linking regions for 15 each of said elements such that each region can be supported against a surround and each such region can be urged by forces on the element to deform outwardly.

4. A fast fit assembly as claimed in claim 3 wherein each said the region curves inwardly.

5. A fast fit assembly as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the docking 20 collar is associated with a shroud, housing, barrel or other surround having fingers or other means capable of supporting in part the body region of a necked container of a range of sizes.

6. A fast fit assembly of claim 5 wherein said fingers are resilient.

7. A fast fit assembly for association with dispensing apparatus, said assembly including 25 a member or assembly defining a shroud, housing or the like (hereafter "housing") adapted to receive an axially advanced necked container from one end towards the end thereof ("the attachment end") to be associated directly or indirectly with the dispensing apparatus, and

30 at or adjacent the attachment end, a container neck and/or head retention collar having a plurality of retention elements each supported so as to be resiliently outwardly moveable under forces applied thereto during the insertion or removal of the necked container.

8. A fast fit assembly as claimed in claim 7 wherein each said element includes a configuration adapted to retain, at least in part, a flange or head of the necked container by an underface to hold the same in retention in the assembly.

9. A fast fit assembly as claimed in claim 7 or 8 wherein said collar is a unitary moulded member or is an assembly of components

10. A fast fit assembly as claimed in any one of claim 7 to 9 wherein said collar is at least primarily located in an annular cavity of the housing.

5 11. A fast fit assembly as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10 wherein at least part of each said element extends radially inwardly through a wall which in part defines said annular cavity.

12. A fast fit assembly as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 11 wherein the docking collar is associated with a shroud, housing, barrel or other surround having fingers or other means capable of supporting in part the body region of a necked container of a range of sizes.

10 13. As a moulded item, a shroud or housing member substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

14. A collar retention ring substantially of a form as herein described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings irrespective of whether or not a unitary moulded member or not.

15. An assembly which includes a collar retention ring or the like, being an assembly substantially as herein described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.

16. A dispensing apparatus to dispense a liquid to be drawn from a replaceable necked container of a kind having a head,

20 said apparatus having

a docking into which a suitable said container can be substantially axially advanced and push engaged and retained thereby (alone or with other retention capability as well) and from which such a suitable container can be disengaged by a prying and/or pulling movement of said suitable container relative to the docking, said docking having a retention collar to surround the container neck and/or head with retention elements thereof capable of in part contacting and/or in part underlying the underface of the head when a container is properly docked, said elements being movable outwardly against their resilience and/or resilience of collar links between such elements,

25 30 an intake needle or other conduit adapted to penetrate into a suitable said container as it is being and/or when docked by said docking, and

a chamber of variable volume capable of being varied as to volume by an operator of the apparatus

- (i) to draw liquid via said intake needle or other conduit into said chamber as it is enlarged from a said docked container into which said needle or other conduit penetrates in use and
- (ii) to express previously drawn in liquid from said chamber via an outlet from said chamber as the chamber is reduced in volume.

5 17. **Dispensing apparatus** to dispense a liquid to be drawn from a replaceable necked container of a kind having a head,

**said apparatus** having

10 a docking assembly into which a suitable said container can be substantially axially advanced and push engaged and retained (at least in part by such interaction) and from which such a suitable container can be disengaged by a prying and/or pulling movement of said suitable container relative to the docking, said docking having a retention collar to surround the container neck and/or head with retention elements thereof capable of (at least in part) 15 contacting and/or (at least in part) underlying the underface of the head when a container is properly docked, said elements being movable outwardly against at least resilience of collar links between such elements,

an intake needle or other conduit adapted to penetrate into a suitable said container as it is being and/or when docked by said docking, and

20 a chamber of variable volume capable of being varied as to volume by an operator of the apparatus

- (i) to draw liquid via said intake needle or other conduit into said chamber as it is enlarged from a said docked container into which said needle or other conduit penetrates in use and
- (ii) to express previously drawn in liquid from said chamber via an outlet from said chamber as the chamber is reduced in volume.

25 18. A dispensing apparatus of claim 17 wherein said retention collar is moulded and said elements move outwardly against reactive forces from parts of the docking assembly in addition to those of the collar links.

30 19. A dispensing apparatus as claimed in claim 17 or 18 wherein said variable geometry chamber takes the form of a barrel or cylinder, the volume of which is variable under the action of a piston.

20. A dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19 said piston is directly operable using a hand operated means of actuation e.g. a trigger, squeezable handle or the like with a bias return.
21. A dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20 said outlet from said variable geometry chamber is or is in communication with an outlet nozzle, catheter, skin penetrating needle, skin scratch needle or other like device.
22. A dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 21 the docking collar is associated with a shroud, housing, barrel or other surround having fingers or other means capable of supporting in part the body region of a necked container of a range of sizes.
- 10 23. In combination, dispensing apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims and a said replaceable suitable container.
24. Apparatus suitable for retro fitting or association with a dispensing apparatus to provide the docking and/or retention collar of dispensing apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 22.
- 15 25. A moulding or mouldings having some or all of the features of retention/release/association importance shown in any one or more of the accompanying drawings.
26. A docking substantially as herein described with reference to any one or more of the accompanying drawings.
- 20 27. A method of dispensing a liquid which comprises docking a replaceable necked container having a retention head with a retention collar as with dispensing apparatus so as to allow a draw off needle or other conduit to penetrate the container, dispensing liquid drawn from said replaceable container via said needle or other conduit from the apparatus, and thereafter forcibly removing the container with a reduced or depleted liquid content from the dispensing apparatus.
- 25 28. A method of claim 27 which involves the use of dispensing apparatus of any one of claims 1 to 2.
- 30 29. An assembly for docking a complementary container, said assembly having beyond a container locator a container head retention collar deformable outwardly to allow a clip fit retention against removal without deformation of the collar.

30. An assembly of claim 29 wherein the retention collar is integrally moulded yet has localised regions, each carrying a retention element capable of being pressed and/or twisted outwardly to allow said clip fit.